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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/577,267

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Bret David Hawkins

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EXAMINER

CHOKSHI, PINKAL R

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/577,267	Applicant(s) HAWKINS ET AL.	
	Examiner PINKAL CHOKSHI	Art Unit 2425	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 02/09/2009 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 21, 28, and 35 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. See the new rejection below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 21-24, 28-31, and 35-37** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US PG Pub 2002/0194599 to Mountain (hereafter referenced as

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Mountain) in view of US Patent 6,396,531 to Gerszberg (hereafter referenced as Gerszberg).

Regarding **claim 21**, “a method for operating a television apparatus” reads on the method that provides next program information (abstract and ¶0008) disclosed by Mountain and represented in Fig. 2A.

As to “the method comprising steps of: using a tuner of said television apparatus to tune a program on a channel” Mountain discloses (¶0025) that user selects a program of a channel to watch on a television.

As to “using a processor of said television apparatus to detect an end time of said program and cause said television apparatus to automatically acquire program information from a broadcaster within a predetermined time period before said end time” Mountain discloses (¶0023) that the receiver detects an end time of the program and beginning of next based on the EPG data received in the receiver.

As to “wherein a banner including information for a future program on said channel is automatically displayed in response to said program information” Mountain discloses (¶0023) that based on the EPG data received, the receiver generates a small display on TV indicating start of next program with program information as represented in Figs. 2A-2C.

Mountain meets all the limitations of the claim except “television to acquire program information within a predetermined time period before said end time and said predetermined time period being selected by a user of said television

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apparatus.” However, Gerszberg discloses (col.12, lines 12-15; col.29, lines 35-45) that the server transmits new updated information to user at the STB at a user specified time interval as represented in Fig. 1C (element 36, 22-1, 130). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills in the art at the time of the invention to modify Mountain’s system by transmitting program information to STB based on user specified time as taught by Gerszberg in order to allow users to gain access to latest program information (col.2, lines 34-35).

Regarding **claim 22**, “the method wherein said predetermined time period is selected by said user via an on-screen menu of said television apparatus” Gerszberg discloses (col.28, lines 49-58; col.29, lines 40-41) that by clicking on user profile icon, user is presented with options with input means for inputting information, such as to a user specified schedule. In addition, same motivation is used as to reject claim 21.

Regarding **claim 23**, “the method wherein said banner includes at least one of: a title of said future program, a starting time of said future program, and a duration of said future program” Mountain discloses (¶0023) that the displaying information provided includes the program title, start time, channel number, etc. as represented in Figs. 2A-2C.

Regarding **claim 24**, “the method wherein said future program is a next

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program on said channel” Mountain discloses (§0013) that the display generated on the TV includes information relating to program next to be shown on said channel.

Regarding **claim 28**, “a television apparatus” reads on the device that provides next program information (abstract and §0008) disclosed by Mountain and represented in Fig. 2A.

As to “apparatus comprising: means for tuning a program on a channel” Mountain discloses (§0025) that user selects a program of a channel to watch on a television.

As to “means for detecting an end time of said program and causing said television apparatus to automatically acquire program information from a broadcaster within a predetermined time period before said end time” Mountain discloses (§0023) that the receiver detects an end time of the program and beginning of next based on the EPG data received in the receiver.

As to “means for enabling display of a banner including information for a future program on said channel in response to said program information” Mountain discloses (§0023) that based on the EPG data received, the receiver generates a small display on TV indicating start of next program with program information as represented in Figs. 2A-2C.

Mountain meets all the limitations of the claim except “television to acquire program information within a predetermined time period before said end time and

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said predetermined time period being selected by a user of said television apparatus.” However, Gerszberg discloses (col.12, lines 12-15; col.29, lines 35-45) that the server transmits new updated information to user at the STB at a user specified time interval as represented in Fig. 1C (element 36, 22-1, 130). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills in the art at the time of the invention to modify Mountain’s system by transmitting program information to STB based on user specified time as taught by Gerszberg in order to allow users to gain access to latest program information (col.2, lines 34-35).

Regarding **claim 29**, “the television apparatus wherein said predetermined time period is selected by said user via an on-screen menu of said television apparatus” Gerszberg discloses (col.28, lines 49-58; col.29, lines 40-41) that by clicking on user profile icon, user is presented with options with input means for inputting information, such as to a user specified schedule. In addition, same motivation is used as to reject claim 21.

Regarding **claim 30**, “the television apparatus wherein said banner includes at least one of: a title of said future program, a starting time of said future program, and a duration of said future program” Mountain discloses (¶0023) that the displaying information provided includes the program title, start time, channel number, etc. as represented in Figs. 2A-2C.

Regarding **claim 31**, “the television apparatus wherein said future program is a next program on said channel” Mountain discloses (§0013) that the display generated on the TV includes information relating to program next to be shown on said channel.

Regarding **claim 35**, “a television apparatus” reads on the apparatus that provides next program information (abstract and §0008) disclosed by Mountain and represented in Fig. 2A.

As to “apparatus comprising: a tuner operative to tune a program on a channel” Mountain discloses (§0025) that user selects channel to watch.

As to “a controller operative to detect an end time of said program and cause said television apparatus to automatically acquire program information from a broadcaster within a predetermined time period before said end time” Mountain discloses (§0023) that the receiver detects an end time of the program and beginning of next based on the EPG data received in the receiver.

As to “wherein a banner including information for a future program on said channel is automatically displayed in response to said program information” Mountain discloses (§0023) that based on the EPG data received, the receiver generates a small display on TV indicating start of next program with program information as represented in Figs. 2A-2C.

Mountain meets all the limitations of the claim except “television to acquire program information within a predetermined time period before said end time and

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said predetermined time period being selected by a user of said television apparatus.” However, Gerszberg discloses (col.12, lines 12-15; col.29, lines 35-45) that the server transmits new updated information to user at the STB at a user specified time interval as represented in Fig. 1C (element 36, 22-1, 130). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills in the art at the time of the invention to modify Mountain’s system by transmitting program information to STB based on user specified time as taught by Gerszberg in order to allow users to gain access to latest program information (col.2, lines 34-35).

Regarding **claim 36**, “the television apparatus wherein said predetermined time period is selected by said user via an on-screen menu of said television apparatus” Gerszberg discloses (col.28, lines 49-58; col.29, lines 40-41) that by clicking on user profile icon, user is presented with options with input means for inputting information, such as to a user specified schedule. In addition, same motivation is used as to reject claim 21.

Regarding **claim 37**, “the television apparatus wherein said banner includes at least one of: a title of said future program, a starting time of said future program, and a duration of said future program” Mountain discloses (¶0023) that the displaying information provided includes the program title, start time, channel number, etc. as represented in Figs. 2A-2C.

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5. **Claims 25-27, 32-34, and 38-40** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mountain in view of Gerszberg as applied to claims 21, 28, and 35 above, and further in view of US Patent 6,763,522 to Kondo (hereafter referenced as Kondo).

Regarding **claim 25**, combination of Mountain and Gerszberg meets all the limitations of the claim except “the method wherein said program information includes an updated electronic program guide” Kondo discloses (abstract and col.12, lines 63-64) that the receiver continuously receives elementary streams that includes program guide information, where it's compared with the stored EPG, and the updated EPG is stored in the memory. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills in the art at the time of the invention to modify Mountain and Gerszberg's systems by refreshing graphic panel with updated EPG information as taught by Kondo in order to provide viewer with up-to-minute events schedule information (col.12, lines 46-48).

Regarding **claim 26**, “the method further comprised of said television apparatus receiving second program information from said broadcaster while said program is tuned, said second program information being received without being requested by said television apparatus” Kondo discloses (col.4, lines 25-40; col.7, lines 59-65) that once a channel has been selected, the current broadcasting information for that channel is received and stored in the memory.

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Kondo further discloses (col.12, lines 42-46) that the system automatically receives and updates program information in the receiver. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills in the art at the time of the invention to modify Mountain and Gerszberg's systems by refreshing graphic panel with updated EPG information as taught by Kondo in order to provide viewer with up-to-minute events schedule information (col.12, lines 46-48).

Regarding **claim 27**, "the method further comprised of said television apparatus performing steps of: enabling display of said banner using said updated program information in response to determining that said banner is not currently displayed" Mountain discloses (§10023) that the message display is generated and indicates viewer that a new program can be viewed on the same channel as represented in Figs. 2A-2C.

Mountain meets all the limitations of the claim except "determining if a banner is currently displayed in response to receiving said second program information" Kondo discloses (col.11, lines 7-9, 52-54) that the system checks to determine if the updated program information for the current tuned channel is present in transport stream and displays future programming information on the display. As to "updating said banner using said second program information in response to determining that said banner is currently displayed" Kondo discloses (col.7, lines 46-48) that the tuner in receiver constantly receives and refreshes graphic panel for future events with newly received program streams. Therefore,

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it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills in the art at the time of the invention to modify Mountain's system by refreshing graphic panel with updated EPG information as taught by Kondo in order to provide viewer with up-to-minute events schedule information (col.12, lines 46-48).

Regarding **claim 32**, "the television apparatus wherein said program information includes an updated electronic program guide" Kondo discloses (abstract and col.12, lines 63-64) that the receiver continuously receives elementary streams that includes program guide information, where it's compared with the stored EPG, and the updated EPG is stored in the memory. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills in the art at the time of the invention to modify Mountain and Gerszberg's systems by refreshing graphic panel with updated EPG information as taught by Kondo in order to provide viewer with up-to-minute events schedule information (col.12, lines 46-48).

Regarding **claim 33**, "the television apparatus wherein said television apparatus receives second program information from said broadcaster while said program is tuned, said second program information being received without being requested by said television apparatus" Kondo discloses (col.4, lines 25-40; col.7, lines 59-65) that once a channel has been selected, the current broadcasting information for that channel is received and stored in the memory.

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Kondo further discloses (col.12, lines 42-46) that the system automatically receives and updates program information in the receiver. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills in the art at the time of the invention to modify Mountain and Gerszberg's systems by refreshing graphic panel with updated EPG information as taught by Kondo in order to provide viewer with up-to-minute events schedule information (col.12, lines 46-48).

Regarding **claim 34**, "the television apparatus wherein said banner is displayed using said second program information in response to said detecting means determining that said banner is not currently displayed" Mountain discloses (§0023) that the message display is generated and indicates viewer that a new program can be viewed on the same channel as represented in Figs. 2A-2C.

Mountain meets all the limitations of the claim except "said detecting means determines if said banner is currently displayed in response to said television apparatus receiving said second program information" Kondo discloses (col.11, lines 7-9, 52-54) that the system checks to determine if the updated program information for the current tuned channel is present in transport stream and displays future programming information on the display. As to "said banner is updated using said second program information in response to said detecting means determining that said banner is currently displayed" Kondo discloses (col.7, lines 46-48) that the tuner in receiver constantly receives and refreshes

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graphic panel for future events with newly received program streams. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills in the art at the time of the invention to modify Mountain's system by refreshing graphic panel with updated EPG information as taught by Kondo in order to provide viewer with up-to-minute events schedule information (col.12, lines 46-48).

Regarding **claim 38**, "the television apparatus wherein said program information includes an updated electronic program guide" Kondo discloses (abstract and col.12, lines 63-64) that the receiver continuously receives elementary streams that includes program guide information, where it's compared with the stored EPG, and the updated EPG is stored in the memory. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills in the art at the time of the invention to modify Mountain and Gerszberg's systems by refreshing graphic panel with updated EPG information as taught by Kondo in order to provide viewer with up-to-minute events schedule information (col.12, lines 46-48).

Regarding **claim 39**, "the television apparatus wherein said television apparatus receives second program information from said broadcaster while said program is tuned, said second program information being received without being requested by said television apparatus" Kondo discloses (col.4, lines 25-40; col.7, lines 59-65) that once a channel has been selected, the current

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broadcasting information for that channel is received and stored in the memory. Kondo further discloses (col.12, lines 42-46) that the system automatically receives and updates program information in the receiver. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills in the art at the time of the invention to modify Mountain and Gerszberg's systems by refreshing graphic panel with updated EPG information as taught by Kondo in order to provide viewer with up-to-minute events schedule information (col.12, lines 46-48).

Regarding **claim 40**, "the television apparatus wherein said banner is displayed using said second program information in response to said controller determining that said banner is not currently displayed" Mountain discloses (¶0023) that the message display is generated and indicates viewer that a new program can be viewed on the same channel as represented in Figs. 2A-2C.

Mountain meets all the limitations of the claim except "said controller determines if said banner is currently displayed in response to said television apparatus receiving said second program information" Kondo discloses (col.11, lines 7-9, 52-54) that the system checks to determine if the updated program information for the current tuned channel is present in transport stream and displays future programming information on the display. As to "said banner is updated using said second program information in response to said controller determining that said banner is currently displayed" Kondo discloses (col.7, lines 46-48) that the tuner in receiver constantly receives and refreshes graphic panel

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for future events with newly received program streams. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skills in the art at the time of the invention to modify Mountain's system by refreshing graphic panel with updated EPG information as taught by Kondo in order to provide viewer with up-to-minute events schedule information (col.12, lines 46-48).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- US PG Pub 2006/0053451 to Lockrige discloses a system where STB requests and receives EPG from the head-end.
- US Patent 6,996,627 to Carden discloses a system for providing updated information.
- US PG Pub 2004/0128317 to Sull discloses an apparatus viewing and navigating videos and displaying images.
- US PG Pub 2004/0267943 to Ryu discloses a method of receiving and displaying information from content providers.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PINKAL CHOKSHI whose telephone number is (571) 270-3317. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8 - 5 pm (Alt. Friday off).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Pendleton can be reached on 571-272-7527. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Pinkal Chokshi/
Examiner, Art Unit 2425

/Brian T. Pendleton/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2425